

REMARKS

Claims 26, 29, 30, 48, 50-51, 53-55, and 57-61 are pending. An Office Action mailed November 21, 2006 rejected Claims 58-61 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, and rejected Claims 26, 29, 30, 48, 50, 51, 53-55, and 57-61 under 35 USC 102. By way of this Response, Applicant hereby amends Claims 26, 30, 54, and 58, and cancels Claims 59-61.

112 REJECTIONS

Applicant has amended Claim 58 to remove the recitation of angles and cancelled Claims 59-61.

102 Rejections

Claims 26, 29, 30, 48, 50, 51, 53-55, 57, 58, and 60 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Zarnick. With respect to the amended claims, Applicant respectfully traverses. The Office Action states “Zarnick discloses a hanger (capable of being a tire hanger) made of rigid material comprising a device configured to removably engage a horizontal support member (21), the device having 1st U-shaped end (18) circumscribing the horizontal member...” Applicant disagrees. Zarnick (at col. 1, lines 39-40 and col. 2, lines 4-5) teaches a hook end attachable to an upper flange of an I-beam. The hook of Zarnick, sized to accommodate the upper flange of an I-beam, is much too narrow to mount on a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist, as required by independent Claims 26, 30, 54, and 58. Thus, Zarnick cannot anticipate Claims 26, 30, 54, and 58. As Claims 29, 48, 50, 51, 53-55, and 57 depend from amended Claims 26, 30, and 54, these Claims are also not anticipated by Zarnick for at least the same reason.

Claims 26, 29, 30, 48, 50, 51, 53-55, 57, 58, and 60 were rejected as being anticipated by Abel. With respect to the amended Claims, Applicant respectfully traverses. As with Zarnick, the “1st U-shaped end” of Abel is (col.2, lines 43-45 and 49-53) “constructed and arranged to engage a bed frame member having planar wall elements angularly disposed with respect to each


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other.” A 1st U-shaped end so constructed and arranged is not properly sized and shaped to removably engage a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist, as required by the independent claims. Note Figure 7, showing a human hand holding the device of Abel. Such a small device is incapable of removable engaging a horizontal support member of a vehicle hoist. Additionally, the 1st U-shaped end is not U-shaped, but V-shaped, and in any event, does not satisfy the requirement of Claim 54 that it have a horizontal top portion, a vertical rear portion, and a horizontal bottom portion. Also, Applicant’s claimed first end does not include an arcuate section, as Abel does. Lastly, it is not seen how the 2nd hook configuration of Abel is capable of suspending a tire: not only are the outer ends 18 and 19 unsuitable for engaging a tire because of their size and shape, but the projecting gripping handle 20 would prevent secure engagement of a tire on to the outer ends 18 and 19. Again, note Figure 7, which shows about 1-1.5 inches of clearance between the handle 20 and the outer ends 18 and 19. Thus, Abel does not anticipate Claims 26, 30, 54, and 58. As Claims 29, 48, 50, 51, 53-55, and 57 depend from amended Claims 26, 30, and 54, these Claims are also not anticipated by Abel for at least the same reasons.



CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the present claims are enabled, novel and non-obvious over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant requests allowance and early passage of the claims through issuance. **Applicant respectfully requests, if the Examiner does not agree that the Claims are allowable, that the Examiner call the undersigned to discuss the Claims.**

Respectfully submitted,

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